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Industrial Horizons



MONTANA / FRONTIER OF INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITY

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A principal attraction at the Midwest Business Opportunities Exhibit will be the U.S. Navy Bureau of Ships booth, featuring over 200 items the Navy purchases from the civilian economy. Pictured above is the display of the 33 different types of wood and wood products the Navy buys. Many of these products could be built by cabinet and woodwork shops in Montana.

BRIEFS . . .

The Census of 1960, as well as the 1959 Census of Agriculture, will be reported in Montana on the basis of 249 new Census County Divisions, rather than the 1,311 minor civil divisions of the 1950 Census. Formerly, the Census was reported by school districts in some counties and election precincts and townships in others. However, these units had boundaries that were difficult to locate and were subject to change. CCD's are stable units whose boundaries will remain constant from year to year, and thus Census data will be more useful. In general, incorporated cities with 2,500 or more inhabitants are to be CCD's in themselves, while places with less than 2,500 people will be the centers of CCD's that also include adjoining rural areas. For instance, Gallatin County will have seven CCD's—Bozeman City, Bozeman rural area, and the towns of Belgrade, Gallatin Gateway, Manhattan, Three Forks and West Yellowstone, plus their adjacent rural areas. The new system is a result of a meeting between Montanans who work on Census material and Census Bureau officials. The meeting was sponsored by the State Planning Board on May 21. For a more complete report on CCD's, see "Montana Business Review," August, 1958, published by Bureau of Business and Economic Research, MSU, Missoula.

BRIEFS . . .

Classification of rivers in Western Montana was considered at public hearings held by the Montana Water Pollution Council in Missoula on September 3, and Kalispell on September 4. The Missoula hearing was held to get the views of the public, including industry, on proposed minimal standards to be upheld on streams in the Clark Fork drainage. The hearing at Kalispell dealt with the Flathead and Kootenai River drainages. Generally, the Council recommends that the main streams of the Clark Fork, Kootenai and Flathead Rivers themselves be maintained at a level allowing residential use of the water with treatment. Other uses included in this classification would be agricultural and industrial supply, growth and propagation of fish, and swimming and recreation. Industry spokesmen agreed with the classification. Classification of our streams and conservation of our water resources is most important in industrial development.

An excellent "Industrial Survey" has been received by the State Planning Board from the Wolf Point Chamber of Commerce. Listing all available statistical data on the region, the 15-page survey is one of the most comprehensive ever put out in the state.

Subcontract Exhibit Plans Going Well

Possibilities of new subcontract activity for Montana small business is the theme of the Midwest Business Opportunities Exhibit, and this is the reason the State Planning Board is co-sponsoring the event.

To be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, October 15-17, the Exhibit is expected to attract over 1,000 exhibitors—small manufacturers from the six-state Midwest area who are looking for subcontracts, as well as large firms and Federal agencies searching for subcontractors.

Invitations to attend the Exhibit have been mailed by the State Planning Board to 232 Montana firms of a type that might be interested in subcontracts. SPB staff members have contacted many of these firms personally about preparing exhibits. In addition, invitations were sent to 53 Chambers of Commerce who may wish to use the opportunity to contact large firms at the Exhibit about establishing branch plants in their communities.

State Booth

Montana will be well represented at the Exhibit. The State Planning Board is preparing an extensive booth advertising the state's potential for economic growth. The display will include products made by several Montana firms interested in subcontracts. Organizations helping with preparation of the State booth include the Montana Chamber of Commerce, Montana Association of Chambers of Commerce Managers, Montana Power Company, Montana Railroad Association and State Advertising Office.

In addition to the State booth, five Montana business are expected to take free booth space of their own to show what they can do, according to present reports. The State Planning Board will represent the interests of approximately 15 other firms, mainly machine and tool shops, in negotiations with major corporations and Federal agencies looking for subcontractors.

Space Already Allocated

Over 90 per cent of the 100,000 square feet of space set up for the Exhibit has already been allocated, according to Exhibit management. According to preliminary reports, this is the largest display of subcontract opportunities ever held in the nation. Total investment in the Exhibit is quite extensive. Federal agencies are investing nearly \$250,000 and Exhibit sponsors are spending about \$20,000.

Montana small business should look into this opportunity for expansion. There is still some exhibit space available.

Statewide City Planning Meet, Oct. 24-25, Helena

Montanans interested in city planning will meet in Helena, October 25 and 26 to discuss the status of planning in the state, and what needs to be done to keep it going.

Cosponsored by the Great Falls City-County Planning Board, Helena City-County Planning Board and the State Planning Board, the meeting is expected to attract approximately 50 persons from all over the state.

The meeting will meet for dinner Tuesday evening, October 25, at the Montana Club, 7 p. m. Reservations are necessary. The dinner will allow informal discussion of common planning problems.

Session Monday: The group will gather at 10 a. m. in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol for discussion of legislation and for more efficient administration of planning in Montana. This includes, among other items, possible amendments to the enabling legislation for City-County Planning Boards passed in 1957, legislative session, and urban renewal enabling legislation.

Permanent Organization

Saturday afternoon the group will consider formation of a permanent organization for the promotion of city planning in Montana. The remainder of the afternoon will be spent on a panel discussion parks and new subdivisions under Montana law.

The meeting is being called in response to requests by City-County Planning Boards already established in the state. "We have reached the stage where some sort of organization is necessary," stated H. Cleveland Hall, President of the Great Falls City-County Planning Board. "Boards have now been formed in nearly every city with significant growth problems and are in the process of being formed in new ones. Boards could well benefit from the experience gained during the past years by more well established Boards. It is hoped that representatives of all community interested in city planning will attend this meeting."

Registration is free. Lunch will be provided.

Communities beginning city planning programs can borrow the planning film "Now—for Tomorrow" from the State Planning Board for showing to local civic groups. A 25-minute feature in color, the film presents basic principles of planning in a concise, graphic manner. The film is free.

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An interesting new industry in Missoula is the porcelain enameling process being used by Bradley Neon Products, Inc. Alan Bradley says he has the only business of its kind in the Northwest, and recently turned out the first section of patterned porcelain on aluminum window wall in the country. The process consists of enamel baked on sheets of steel. Between sheets of the metal, a foam-like substance can be placed for insulation. This makes the material even more suitable for use in building.

FINANCING SMALL BUSINESS DISCUSSED AT BOARD- ADVISORY COUNCIL MEET

New legislation to aid equity financing of Montana small business was the main topic of discussion at the first joint meeting of the State Planning Board and its newly expanded Advisory Council.

Meeting in Helena on Sept. 30 and October 1, the group heard reports of the newly-passed Small Business Investment Act of 1958, which provides \$27.5 million in new financing aids for small business, and on the need for enabling legislation for Industrial Development Credit Corporations in Montana. The latter would allow banks and other financial institutions to pool a small percentage of their assets for loans to small businesses.

"Providing new sources of expansion capital to small businesses is one of the best ways to stimulate industrial growth in Montana at the present time," commented R. C. Setterstrom, chairman of the Advisory Council in a report to the meeting. "These two laws will go far toward solving that problem. It is therefore important that the Legislature give every consideration to passing the Development Credit Corporation legislation next year, if the bill is introduced."

The Board and Advisory Council also discussed the program of the State Planning Board in building Montana's economy, and heard reports on city planning and local development corporations.



A view of the coal stock-piling operations at the new Montana-Dakota Utilities Company generating plant at Sidney. The 44,000 kilowatt steam electric generating station was placed in operation October 1. This plant represents the first large-scale use of Eastern Montana's huge lignite deposits. MDU, through its wholly owned Knife River Coal Mining Company, is strip mining its entire supply of lignite from a deposit near Savage. This is one of the first steps in utilization of Montana's huge low-grade coal and lignite deposits. (See INDUSTRIAL HORIZONS, September, 1956).

MONTANA STATE PLANNING BOARD

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